


Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/656,170	HIRAKATA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
David Nhu	2818		

-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/5/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 56-99.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 08 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 09/730,147
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/046,198.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |



REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 56-99 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the references of record teaches or suggests as cited in claims 56, 60, 64, 69, 74, 80, 86, 93: planarizing surfaces of the electrodes and a surface of the insulating layer so that they become flush with each other, thereby filling boundary portions between the electrodes with the insulating layer (as cited in claim 56); planarizing surfaces of the striped electrodes and a surface of the insulating layer so that they become flush with each other, thereby filling boundary portions between the striped electrodes with the insulating layer (as cited in claim 60); planarizing surfaces of the pixel electrodes and a surface of the insulating layer so that they become flush with each other, thereby filling boundary portions between the pixel electrodes with the insulating layer (as cited in claim 64, 69); planarizing the insulating layer so that a surface of the DLC film and a surface of the insulating layer become flush with each other, thereby filling boundary portions between the electrodes with the insulating layer (as cited in claim 74); planarizing the insulating layer so that a surface of the DLC film and a surface of the insulating layer become flush with each other, thereby filling boundary portions between the striped electrodes with the insulating layer (as cited in claim 80); planarizing the insulating layer so that a surface of the DLC film and a surface of the insulating layer become flush with each other, thereby filling boundary portions between the pixel electrodes with the insulating layer (as cited in claim 86, 93);
3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the

issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

CONCLUSION

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Majima et al (5,592,318): LCD Apparatus Having an Inorganic Filler between Pixel Electrodes and a Method for Producing the same.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication on earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Nhu, (571)279-1792. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

The examiner's supervisor, David Nelms can be reached on (571)272-1787.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

David Nhu 

June 14, 2004



DAVID NHU
PRIMARY EXAMINER